**CAPTAIN BEATTY SPEECH ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT**

**Part 4 Directions**: “Yes, but what about the firemen, then?” (Bradbury 55). Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. What is the role of the fireman? (see p. 56 and 59). Summarize and explain.

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2. According to pages 55-58, what does it mean to be happy in the society present in *Fahrenheit 451*?

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3. According to Captain Beatty, how do books threaten the pursuit of happiness?

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One feature of a dystopian novel is how strikingly parallel, or similar, the terrible society in the story is to our own world today. **Directions: Below are the main ideas (paraphrased) of Beatty’s speech listed (mostly) in the order in which they appear.**

A. In what ways is our world like the world in the novel that Beatty describes? Give an example from today’s society that exemplifies the main idea.

B. Then, rank the main ideas listed below in order of “most true” (1) to “least true” (6) as the idea applies to our world today.

C. Lastly, write a summative statement that may be the author’s intended purpose in providing the parallel; in other words, write a “life lesson” the similarity between the book and today’s world depicts.

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| **RANK** | **MAIN IDEA** | **TRUTH FROM TODAY’S SOCIETY** | **REASON for RANKING** | **LESSON REVEALED through COMPARISON** |
|  | **Advancements made in technology caused people to have less time and patience for reading books.** |  |  |  |
|  | **School is a place where students are stuff with facts, but they do not actually learn anything. Learning is a mirage.** |  |  |  |
|  | **Society provides plenty of ways for people to entertain themselves that are more interesting than reading: vacations, sports, TV/movies, clubs/parties, and other areas of “solid entertainment.”** |  |  |  |
|  | **To make a profit, companies and artists stopped producing and selling anything that could be potentially offensive to any group.** |  |  |  |
|  | **The government gives people very little choice, and rightly so: they do not want to dissatisfy their constituents. They want to keep the people “happy” by keeping them ignorant of government affairs.** |  |  |  |
|  | **People care only about easy pleasure/instant gratification and have lost interest in knowledge.** |  |  |  |